

Truckers Update

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New information in bold as of 16:30 EDT

For information on planned traffic routes, please refer to the following webmap: [Link to webmap](#)
For near-real time updates on the city of Ottawa road closures and traffic updates, please refer to [Traffic.Ottawa.ca](#) and updates on @Ottawa_Traffic and @Ottawa_Circule.

Overview

- * Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- * Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS began requiring non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals." [Link](#)

Key Points

Details on Demonstrations

- * A number of Canadian truckers have planned a convoy with hopes of ending the mandatory vaccine mandate for truckers.
- * The convoys are aiming to meet in downtown Ottawa by noon on 29 Jan, **some have arrived already, no major issues outside of traffic management reported thus far.**
- * Three main convoys (East, South and West) are heading to Ottawa. **Latest count of vehicles in convoys: 551**
- * Contacts for routes and timelines can be found on the organization's website: [Link](#)
 - * Eastern Convoy: **Convoys from eastern Canada will roll into Vankleek Hill this evening, before completing the journey to Ottawa on Saturday morning.** [Link](#)
 - * Southern convoy, latest count is **70 vehicles** :
 - * **Convoy of truckers and supporters departed Kingston, ON, shortly after 08:30 EST.** [Link](#)
 - * **The first of the convoys started arriving at Parliament Hill at approximately 13:30 EST.** [Link](#)
 - * The Western Convoy, latest count **471 vehicles: scheduled to arrive in Arnprior, ON, late Friday afternoon, before travelling into downtown Ottawa Saturday morning.** [Link](#)
 - * **Sub convoys : Hearst convoy currently has 10 vehicles.**
 - * An estimate of 1000-2000 demonstrators are meeting at the Alexandria Bridge on the Quebec side and plan to cross over to Ottawa at 11:15 on Saturday. **MacDonald Cartier bridge is being closed (1 lane in each direction) due to weight.**

- * On 28 Jan, truckers will be meeting at 3 Ports Of Entries (POE) (Saint-Theophile, Stanstead, and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle), and will drive on Highway 40 until Vankleek Hill ,ON, and will move onward to Ottawa on 29 Jan.
- * There are 500 trucks confirmed in the state of Maine as participating on the US side of the border and 300 trucks confirmed in NB to be participating on the highway 95, along with several personal vehicles. Commercial trucks are expected to block highway 95 while passenger vehicles are expected to block highway 555 from Beardsley Road.
- * Additional demonstrations being planned across Canada.
 - * "Slow roll" convoys at provincial and Canada/U.S. border crossing are being planned over the weekend. [Link](#)
 - * In AB, those who cannot go to Ottawa are being encouraged to block the Coutts border, most likely on 28-29 Jan, and not move until the demands in Ottawa are met. (Source: comments on the Freedom Convoy 2020 Facebook page.)
 - * In PEI, a Convoy plans to begin a slow roll demonstration at 13:00 EST on 29 Jan from the By-Pass and University Ave intersection down University Ave to the Cenotaph before dispersing.
 - * NB is anticipating the following CI disruptions: Blockade of Woodstock NB and Houlton ME International Port of Entry, Blockade of Highway 2 at NB/NS border, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of Edmundston NB and Madawaska ME International Port of Entry, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of Perth Andover NB and Fort Fairfield ME international port of entry, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of highway 2 at NB/Quebec border.
 - * Demonstrations may take place at Federal buildings across Canada : Victoria, Legislative Assembly, Vancouver, Canada Place, Calgary, Prince Island Park, Edmonton, Legislature building, Regina, Legislative building, Winnipeg, The Forks, Toronto, Union Station, Montreal, Place des arts, Moncton, Riverfront Park, St John's, Harbourside Park.
- * According to Open Sources, Freedom Convoy 2022, has raised over **\$7.3** million in fundraising in support of their cause. [Link](#)

Preparedness and Response efforts

- * Ottawa police have planned for 1,000 to 2,000 vehicles and note the Convoy has so far been peaceful and cooperative with police and city officials in other jurisdictions.
- **Ottawa Police Service are managing rolling closures at this time in order to manage traffic.**
- **Gatineau Police will be closing the Alexandria Bridge as of 18:00hrs this evening.**
- **Toronto Police Services are sending resources to Ottawa to assist with The Freedom Convoy in Ottawa.**
- * The following road closures in the NCR were in place as of 14:30 EDT:
 - * Highway 417 eastbound on-ramp at Richmond /Bayshore Drive;
 - * Queen Elizabeth Drive between Laurier and Catherine;
 - * Wellington, reduced to one lane between Elgin and Lyon;
 - * Right lane and shoulder at Highway 417 eastbound on-ramp at Highway 416;
 - * Sir John A Macdonald parkway between Carling and Booth;
 - * Gatineau Police will be closing the Alexandria Bridge as of 18:00 EDT;
 - * Intermittent closures are expected on the Sir John A. Macdonald, Aviation and Sir George-Étienne-Cartier parkways, for City of Ottawa operations;
 - * Elgin is reduced to two lanes between Wellington and Laurier due to preparations for the demonstration; and

- * Laurier is reduced to 1 lane in each direction between Elgin and Nicholas due to preparations for demonstration.
- * Ottawa Public Health has closed two vaccination clinics. [Link](#)
- * **PSPC has engaged with its parliamentary partners, as well as the Parliamentary Protective Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Ottawa Police Services**
 - * **24/7 building personnel and commissionaires are to be positioned on site. Contingency plans are in place to ensure that they can respond to any damage / vandalism etc.**
 - * **PSPC is working in close collaboration with the Parliamentary Protective Service to coordinate activities specific to the parliamentary precinct, such as providing barricades and access to infrastructure as required during the event.**
 - * **Construction activities, including the Centre Block Rehabilitation Program, will be shut down from Friday to Sunday, with the possibility of extension to Monday based on the evolution of the event through the weekend.**
 - * **As a precautionary measure, and following recommendations from security partners, PSPC has authorized the lock down of all buildings under its control (100 Wellington, National Press Building, etc.). Access for essential building occupants will be maintained at all times.**
 - * **The Parliamentary Precinct Security Operations Center (SOC) will remain operational throughout the event and liaise closely between police, security personnel and PSPC stakeholders as required.**
- * **Minto Properties received confirmation that individuals started to enter office buildings in the downtown core and some caused damages. As a result, Minto Place has locked down 180 Kent Street. All entrance doors will be locked (weekend mode) and security will be at each entrance to monitor access to and from the Complex.**

Overall Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources):

- * OPP is advising motorists to avoid travel on Hwy417 and Hwy416 in the Ottawa for Friday afternoon and Saturday due to major delays associated with the truck Convoy. [Link](#)
- * Ottawa Police, the OPP and the RCMP as well as the City of Ottawa, are aware of and are coordinating a response to the progress of the various convoys.
- * Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is expected to be minor.
- * OP INTERSECT is indicating that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period.
- * Organizers of the protest have expressed the intent for a peaceful event, which is consistent with what has been seen in other areas where the convoy has stopped so far.

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